

the subject of the quality of charcoal required for producer gas plants.

Little study seems to have been devoted to the possible use of coconut shell charcoal for this purpose. The writer made certain enquiries in Ceylon and S. India in 1942-43 from users of automobile gas producers, some of whom stated that commercial shell charcoal tried by them contained too high a percentage of tar products with the result that the gas filters became clogged very quickly and tar fouling of the pistons and valves occurred. The distillative products of shells differ somewhat from those of wood (see Article V of this series) and it is possible that their more phenolic nature tending to resinous tar formation may be a drawback to the use of shell charcoal in this field. On the other hand, it is possible that a higher grade of retort charcoal would be suitable and it certainly seems desirable that further investigations should be carried out. The utilization of shell charcoal in this way would be of economic interest to coconut-growing countries. The writer would be glad to hear of any information obtained from trials on this subject carried out by investigators in India.

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